

THE FRIEND OF RUSSIA

MIKADO'S MAN SEES LIGHT IN THE EAST.

He is Count Okuma, and He is Japan's Premier—Empire Now in the Hands of a Strong Party Man—Revolution in Japanese Politics.



A NEW figure has sprung into the political arena of the world's nations—the figure of a little Jap with one leg. He is Count Shigenobu Okuma, the new premier of Japan, and what he lacks in a physical sense is more than made up in those mental qualities which have won for him the respect and admiration of his people. It is safe to say that no foreign power will attempt to trifle with Okuma. What Li Hung Chang is to China Count Okuma is to Japan, and more, for he represents the people of Japan. In his recent elevation to the premiership the death knell of the government of the clans was sounded and Japan now enjoys the comparative freedom of party rule. It is really a revolution in Japanese politics and the people are at least assured of representation. Count Okuma is the father of the reformation. He has had ample experience in the past as minister of finance and minister of foreign affairs. In order to thoroughly understand the situation it is first necessary to take a brief survey of Japanese politics. For the last thirty years Japan has been ruled by the ministry composed of the nobles of Satsuma and Choshu. There were times when Tosa and Hizen men were members of the cabinet, but the latter were gradually frozen out, and of recent years all the important government positions have been filled by representatives of the two famous clans. Japan suffered long and patiently under this yoke of clan government, but finally the clamoring of the people for a change resulted in the establishment of the diet in 1890, and at once it became the mouthpiece of the people's discontent. An address to the throne charging the government with misadministration or a vote of non-confidence in the reigning ministry or the rejection of an important government measure became the usual feature of the diet. The government would reply with either suspension or dissolution. The clan government managed to continue its existence, as there were no political parties strong enough to overthrow it. The liberals and the progressives, the two leading parties, were always at loggerheads, but on a recent measure involving taxation they united their forces. The leaders of the two parties, Count Okuma and Count Itagaki, got together, and as a result the great popular party under the name of "Kenseito," or constitutional party, was born. The inauguration ceremonies of the new party were conducted on June 22. As a result of this Marquis Ito resigned the premiership and his example was followed by all the other cabinet ministers. Marquis Ito, himself a man of



COUNT OKUMA.

keen and far-sighted judgment, had previously urged the necessity of changing a policy that held aloof from political parties. But he met with no support, so he resigned, and in doing so he recommended to the emperor as his successor Count Okuma. The emperor summoned Counts Okuma and Itagaki to the court, and they were entrusted with the task of a cabinet formation, with the result that Okuma accepted the premiership and at the same time became minister of foreign affairs. The change in the ministry was at once announced and went into effect at once. Count Okuma is a native of Hizen, a province of Kyusyu island, and is nearly 60 years old. But he still calls himself a young man. His father was one of the Hizen clan, but was not blessed with an abundance of this world's goods. Meager as his opportunities were, Okuma never neglected an opportunity to cultivate the eminent scholars and leading men of his time, and he learned to take a deep interest in the affairs of his country. In 1877 the Saito rebellion took place, and following that the nation's finances became exceedingly disordered. It was then that he was appointed minister of finance, and demonstrated his keen judgment in matters of state. He later found himself at the head of the foreign office. Count Okuma is active in developing the modern sciences in Japan. In 1880, with that far-sighted study of the nation's needs which characterized all his movements, he founded an institution of learning for young men. Just across the way from his residence, in a suburb of Tokyo, known as Waseda, he erected the first building, and endowed the institution with \$100,000. This is known as the Tokio Sammon Gakko, and it has enjoyed great prosperity. There are at present

about 1,000 students. The university embraces three separate schools, one of Japanese law, one of political science and one of literature. The count's house is a delightful combination of the modern and the ancient Japanese. In the front his rooms are carpeted, papered and equipped in European style, while in the rear sections we find the little Japanese porches, sliding screens and papered windows. His grounds and garden are as fine as anything in Japan. He has, indeed, an ideal rural home. His postoffice address is 74 Shinjo Totsukamura Minami Toshima-gora.

Count Okuma is happily married and dearly loves the seclusion of his own home. His wife, the countess, is a lady of quiet demeanor and proves an admirable hostess at their numerous and ever hospitable receptions. The lady has many friends among the nobility and the youth of the land. She takes great interest in the Semmon Gakko and invariably graces the commencement and other public occasions with her presence.

NEW PRESIDENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Edward Orton of Columbus, O., the new president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



DR. E. ORTON.

sociation for the Advancement of Science, is the state geologist of Ohio and one of the most widely recognized experts in geology in the country. He is a native of New York state, where his father was a Presbyterian clergyman. He took his classical course in Hamilton college and afterward studied in Lane Seminary under the famous Dr. Lyman Beecher. Feeling called to the profession of science, Dr. Orton entered the Lawrence School at Harvard. When he left that institution he gave himself up to education and served many colleges in the chair of the professor and the president. He was made president of the State Agricultural college in 1872 and at the same time was professor of geology in that school. In 1881 he gave up the presidency but retained his chair. One year later Dr. Orton was made state geologist, a post he has filled with distinction ever since. In recognition of his splendid services to Ohio and education one of the great buildings of the state university was given the name of Orton Hall in his honor. The geologists have been very forward in the work of the American association and Dr. Orton's reputation ranks with most of the eminent geologists who have been concerned with the association since its foundation. His researches are known all over the world.

NEW STAR IN MUSICAL WORLD

Lorenzo Perosi, the rising star in the Italian firmament of music, has already done sufficiently well to fix him in his seat of fame forever. Perosi is musical director of the famed Cathedral of St. Mark in Venice, and his compositions have made him the ideal of Italy, especially of the Venetian public. He has written a trilogy of oratorios called the "Sacred Trilogy." They are "The Passion of Christ," "The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ," and "The Resurrection of Lazarus." Each oratorio is in two parts, so arranged that the parts may be sung separately. Record, the great musical publisher of Italy, has purchased these compositions and has commissioned the composer to write a fourth, to be entitled "The Holy Sepulchre." Perosi's first teacher was his father, Giuseppe Perosi, a choirmaster in Tortona, Piedmont, where Lorenzo was born. He was afterward sent by the patronage of a wealthy Milanese to the conservatory at Milan. He also studied and traveled in Germany. He filled various posts as director in churches until he received his commis-



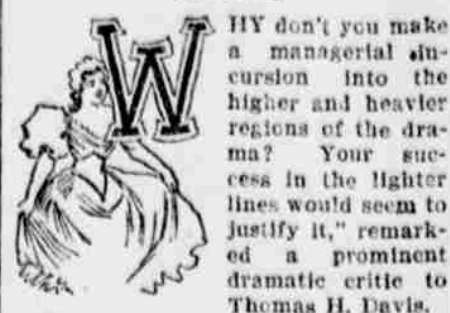
LORENZO PEROSI.

sion at St. Mark's. Although he is but 27 years old, and did so much good work as a musician, he found time to study theology for the priesthood and was ordained in 1893. He has written, besides his grand composition, no less than twelve masses. It is said his recent work has shown the influence of Bach strongly, but does not follow any master.

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

SOME SAYINGS AND DOINGS IN STAGELAND.

A Dramatic Query Answered by Thos. H. Davis—The Higher You Go in Theatricals the Cooler the Atmosphere Becomes—Noldi the Resultful.



W H Y don't you make a managerial incursion into the higher and heavier regions of the drama? Your success in the lighter lines would seem to justify it," remarked a prominent dramatic critic to Thomas H. Davis. "You are, of course, aware," replied Mr. Davis, "that the higher you go the colder it grows, and that atmospheric condition applies equally as well to the theater as to the mountain or millionaire reception. We don't believe it good business policy to turn a theater into an intellectual cold storage house, and fill it with tragedy and problems of evil suggestion and guilty gloom. We think we have found out that the public, from plutocrat to pauper, get about all the chills and fever they want in the practical affairs of this bustling and selfish world, and would sooner fly for relief and recreation to a bright, catchy, laughter-loaded farce, like 'Have You Seen Smith?' or 'The Finish of Mr. Fresh,' than to accept 'comps' to 'Othello,' 'Macbeth,' or 'King Lear.' We make no pretense of working out theological, psychological or social problems on the stage. That is the outside business of preachers, scientists and reformers. We are not teachers, only entertainers, and when a man is surfeited with pork and beans we don't ram roast beef down his gullet. We give him farcical champagne and comedy whipped cream instead, and he likes it. Neither do we commit the



NOLDI.

gross blunder of attempting to spice our plays with salacious sentiments, or even risky situations, as objectionable as cloves and allspice in apple pie. Where we might please one by so doing we would unpardonably offend a thousand, for the masses are mighty particular in demanding wholesome dramatic food, served on clean dishes. You can't make them laugh and blush at the same time. You don't shoot over the head, but straight at the heart, and that's why we have scored so many bull's eyes. We'll just stick to the level, where the brooks babble, the flowers bloom, the birds sing and the sun smiles. If other man-



MARION SHIRLEY.

agers prefer glaciers and gloom that is strictly their own affair."

A story is going the rounds of a frolic in which Mme. Melba, Joachim, the violinist, and a celebrated cellist indulged, in order to determine whether a violinist present could earn a dollar in the street. Mme. Melba is quoted as

following: "We tried just such an experiment last summer at my country home in England. Joachim was visiting us, and a certain celebrated 'cellist,' when one afternoon the idea of a great frolic occurred to us. We put on old clothes and out we sailed, all three, and took up our positions in one of the locks on the Thames, and there we made music for two whole hours. Joachim and the 'cellist' played and I sang. And now, how much money do you suppose we took in? Just seven shillings and sixpence, or \$1.87."

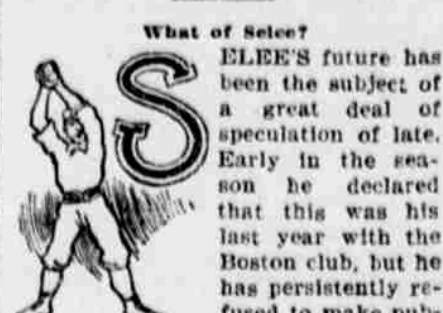
Marion Shirley is a Michigan girl. Her talent for dramatic expression is remarkable. The well-known actor, Mr. Harry C. Barton, who has known all the women of our stage for a generation, recently saw Miss Shirley play Polly Eccles in a semi-professional revival of Tom Robertson's "Case," and expressed the conviction that it equaled Sydney Cowell's impersonation of the character in her liveliest days—i. e., in her Charles Wyndham days, in the 60s and early 70s. Miss Shirley, moreover, has a liberal equipment of personal comeliness, the actor temperament and that unpurchasable Kohinor of human life, youth—the youth that Richelleu rapturously described as "all-golden and glorious."

The beautiful daughter of B. A. Ulrich of Chicago, known to the world as Helen Noldi, is about to start on a concert tour. Miss Noldi attracted great attention while studying in Europe, not only on account of her promising voice, which is a clear, sweet soprano of great strength, but also because of her beauty. Through her mother she is related to O. P. Belmont of New York. While studying in Bologna she met Etelka Gerster, who is living in retirement there, and she was complimented by the great artist upon the promise which her voice gave. The young Chicagoan visited her every week, and had the benefit not only of Gerster's friendship, but also of hearing her sing. The voice that once evoked such enthusiasm is now veiled by age and usage, but in it may still

BASE BALL GOSSIP.

CURRENT NEWS AND NOTES OF THE GAME.

The Future of Manager Selee the Subject of Much Speculation—May Enter the Western League—Freedman Is Obdurate—Better Fielding This Season



What of Selee? ELEE's future has been the subject of a great deal of speculation of late. Early in the season he declared that this was his last year with the Boston club, but he has persistently refused to make public his plans for 1899. The writer has information to the effect that he will be a part owner and manager of the Minneapolis club of the Western league after the close of this season. Under Selee's management the Millers will be factors in the pennant race and one of the best cities in the Western league circuit will be redeemed. Success and Selee have traveled together so long that it is impossible to separate them when predicting the future of the Minneapolis club under his management. He is honest and fair in his dealings with players and patrons and he is held in such high estimation by the Boston triumvirate that he has never been asked to sign a contract by them. When tendered a Western league franchise last year, he asked the owners of the Boston club to release him from the oral agreement he had made to manage their team in 1898. When they declined, Selee broke off negotiations with President Johnson and his associates and gave his attention to the affairs of the Boston club. He is one of the few men identified with base ball, whose word is as good as a bond. While every club in the Western league will be benefited by Selee's connection with the Minneapolis club, St. Paul will be the greatest gainer. The base ball rivalry between the twin cities of Minnesota will be revived, and should their respective teams finish one, two, in 1899 the fortunes of Selee and Comiskey will be made.

Maul and Robinson.

Maul and Robinson of the Baltimores work in a game as probably no other battery in the world does. They have no signs of any kind. Maul puts the ball over without telling Robbie by signal what kind of a ball he is going to deliver. No other pitcher would dare do this for fear of passed balls. For a catcher to handle curves or shoots without knowing what is coming is a pretty hard job. "Maul and myself started in without any signs," said Robbie Sunday, "and we have kept it up ever since. I am not afraid of any of his shoots or curves getting away from me. In fact, there is so little shoot and curve to his delivery that anybody can handle it. Maul has a little twist to his ball. In that lies his success. Another thing, he knows just where every ball he pitches is going to. I believe that, in a pinch, Maul could hit within two inches of a mark four times out of five. Twisters and command are his stock in trade."

Tom Kinslow Is Lively.

"This thing of jumping in and catching in ten straight games after being out of the business for two years is no child's play," says Tom Kinslow. "It is quite different from dishing out drinks in my old Washington bar. Even at that I feel like a 2-year-old. My legs are naturally a trifle sore and my throwing wing is not as supple as it might be. Two months ago I weighed 225 pounds. I started to work hard



TOM KINSLOW.

and I have taken off 35 pounds. It has not weakened me, but, on the contrary, has made me feel better than I have felt for three years. I will continue to take off weight and before the season ends I will weigh in the neighborhood of 160 pounds. I will not let up in my work after the season, either, but will continue to practice through the cold months, and next season I will be as good as a young blood."

Freedman Is Obdurate.

Freedman will not accept defeat in the Holmes case and litigation is sure to follow. The foot finding of the directors in making the payment of the fine assessed against the New York club conditional upon the suspension of Holmes, will give him a foothold in the courts. The decision of the directors was not direct and positive and depended for its efficacy upon the action of the Baltimore club in obeying its order for the suspension of Holmes. This lack of positiveness in the opinion of many invalidates it in toto. Then followed the injunction and the reversal of the finding as affecting Holmes,

leaving the fine against the New York club unconditional. Freedman will fight in the courts unless, as is probable, the league agrees to a reduction of the fine and makes good the difference to the Baltimore club. The magnates never meet an issue fairly and squarely. The cowardice of base ball capitalists is proverbial. The matter was discussed by the directors of the New York club on Monday and it will be taken up again in a few days. There is little probability of anything being done, however, until Freedman gets back from Europe. Then look out for developments.

Wise Barnie.

Billy Barnes is out with a scheme for forming another base ball league for next season. Barnes, being a manager of wide experience in baseball, foresees the downfall of the present twelve-club National League, and predicts that inside of two years the circuit will be cut down to eight clubs, and that there will be room for a revival of the old American Association. But Billy will not undertake to bring such a thing to pass just yet. Instead, he will be satisfied with an eight-club league, to be composed in part of such towns as Albany, Troy, Birmingham, Worcester and Rochester. He claims all of those places are particularly good ball towns and would make part of a highly successful league. Barnes claims to have plenty of Brooklyn and Connecticut capital behind him.—New York "Tribune."

The Philadelphia Club's "Pitching Find."

Wiley H. Platt of the Phillies has made a record second to no young pitcher who is twirling in the National



WILEY PIATT.

League this year for the first time. He did splendid work in the spring, and now he is making good his claim of being a "warm-weather" pitcher. He has four shut-outs to his credit—Cleveland twice, 1 to 0; Pittsburgh, 7 to 0, and Louisville 2 to 0—thus sharing honors with Powell and Hughes. He has been knocked out but once. Up to Aug. 25 he had won 15 out of 29 games pitched. He has as much speed as any left-hander in the profession, and better control than any of them, and may be justly termed "the pitching find of the year." He is 22 years of age, and hails from Otway, O.

Teams Doing Better in the Field.

"One thing which has cut down the batting averages this season under last," remarked a base ball veteran, "is the fact that the teams all along the line are fielding better. The teams in the second division are stronger and are playing better ball. It is off the weaker teams that the batters make their averages, you know. Well, they are not doing it this year. Take teams like Pittsburgh, Louisville and others, and they are 20 per cent harder to beat this year than last. Their pitchers are working smoother and they have better fielding material. They have been strengthened a good deal by the fact that the young players drafted into the major business are so exceptionally fast that a number of the old-timers, experienced and good ball-players, have been forced into second-division clubs. Take the case of Reitz jumping from a championship team to a loser like Washington and playing the ball he is; Hoy for Louisville, Quinn for St. Louis and others. It is this, too, that is making the fight for the pennant so close. I take it that the exceptional ability of the lot of minor leaguers drafted into the big league this season is the cause of the slump in batting among the regulars."

The Phillies.

"The Phillies would be higher in the race, had we been as well managed early in the season as we are now," said Pitcher Donahoe. Billie Shettsline understands how to control players and get good work out of them without "bossing" them in an offensive way. He will handle us next year, I hope, for I feel sure that with him at the helm, we'll make a bid for a respectable place in the race. Our team is all right now and there is not the least friction among us. We should beat Pittsburgh out to a certainty."

Make Haste Slowly.

The Pittsburgh Press in commenting on the Indianapolis club's aspirations to break into the National league, says: "Base ball magnates who dream of taking Indianapolis into the big league because a county judge could not find a way of stopping Sunday base ball, which is prohibited by a state law, should wait until the Supreme Court of Indiana has its say. The Ohio Supreme Court didn't do a thing to the ruling of that Cleveland judge, and Tebeau's men have been traveling over since."

Really Needs D.

From Cincinnati "The Cincinnati Enquirer" says: "Base ball has not been a success in a lot of bouquets at the annual convention of the board of directors of the National league. Mr. Vose, of the Cincinnati Enquirer, has a lot of bouquets at the annual convention of the board of directors of the National league. Mr. Vose, of the Cincinnati Enquirer, has a lot of bouquets at the annual convention of the board of directors of the National league. Mr. Vose, of the Cincinnati Enquirer, has a lot of bouquets at the annual convention of the board of directors of the National league."